

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Final Office Action dated October 25, 2007. This Office Action rejected all claims pending at that time. Specifically, the Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,787,485 issued to Fitzgerald et al. (Fitzgerald). Claims 4-6, 13-14, 16-18, 20, 21, 24-26, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Fitzgerald in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,804,755 issued to Selkirk et al. (Selkirk). Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Fitzgerald in view of Selkirk and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0098544 filed by Gaither et al. (Gaither). Claims 11, 12, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Fitzgerald in view of Selkirk and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,128,627 issued to Mattis et al. (Mattis). Lastly, Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Fitzgerald in view of Selkirk and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,188,229 issued to Lowe (Lowe). In light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of all pending claims.

The independent claims have been amended to recite limitations that are not taught or fairly suggested in the cited sections of the art set forth in the Final Office

Action. For example, independent Claim 1 now recites:

A method comprising:

generating first and second write transactions, wherein the first and second write transactions comprise first and second tags, respectively;

transmitting the first and second write transactions to first and second storage devices, respectively;

wherein the first write transaction comprises data D to be written;

wherein the second write transaction comprises data D to be written;

storing first write information in an entry of a first tag table, wherein the first write information comprises the first tag and an identity of a logical block of a first storage object where data D is to be written, wherein the first tag table is stored in first memory;

storing second write information in an entry of a second tag table, wherein the second write information comprises the second tag and an identity of a logical block of a second storage object where data D is to be written, wherein the second tag table is stored in second memory.

Neither the cited sections of Fitzgerald or Selkirk teach or fairly suggest storing first and second write information in respective entries of a first and second tag table, respectively, wherein the first write information comprises the first tag and an identity of a logical block of a first storage object where data D is to be written, and wherein the second information comprises the second tag and an identity of a logical block of a second storage object where data D is to be written. At column 8, lines 13-34 Selkirk discloses each “data unit may be historically maintained in a meta-data record associated with the data unit and may be updated as the use of the data is monitored.” However, this cited section of Selkirk does not teach or fairly suggest storing first and second information in respective entries of first and second tag tables, wherein the first and second information comprises respective tags and respective identities of logical blocks. As such, Applicants assert that independent Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable.

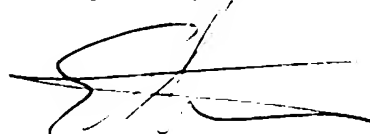
The remaining independent claims contain limitations similar to those added to independent Claim 1 in this amendment. As such, Applicants assert that the remaining independent claims are likewise patentably distinguishable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5093.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. Applicant also hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to deposit account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric A. Stephenson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric A. Stephenson
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 38,321
Telephone: (512) 439-5093
Facsimile: (512) 439-5099